



Good morning. This morning I thank the committee members for being present.

My name is Gloria Padilla; I live in Hartford CT, I am a mother of two daughters. I am a leader with the Make the Road Connecticut Fight Back Committee and I am in favor of H.B. 6616 AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS.

We need everyone to have health insurance to ensure a healthier Connecticut.

There have been countless times where I have feared going to the emergency room or a medical appointment due to lack of health insurance. When I needed to get my ears checked due to hearing loss I missed so many appointments due to fear of cost. Simple things like getting my eyes checked for glasses or going to the dentist were missed due to the lack of health insurance.

Most critically I remember my experience with Covid-19. I could barely breathe and I wasn't sure if I would make it to the next day. I was scared for my family. I could not leave my family, but I didn't feel like going to the hospital would do anything but get me into more debt.

Till this day, I have never had healthcare in my 54 years of living. I pray that I do not become severely ill. It is not okay to live in a world where prayer is the thing that keeps you alive.

I support H.B. 6616 and hope the committee will support it as well and vote for it.

Thank you for your time, Gloria Jaramillo